

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 551

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:VPINT, PK

SUBJECT: TWO MORE MINISTERS NAMED TO PUNJAB CABINET

REF: LAHORE 0911

1. TWO MORE PUNJAB CABINET MINISTERS, MALIK GHULAM NABI

EDUCATION) AND RANA SHAUKAT MAHMUD (REVENUE AND COLONIES),  
WERE SWORN IN AT LAHORE AUGUST 16, BRINGING STRENGTH OF  
NEW CABINET SO FAR TO SIX.

2. CHIEF MINISTER SADIQ HUSSAIN QURESHI, SPEAKING TO  
NEWSMEN AFTER SWEARING-IN, SAID CABINET NOT COMPLTE YET.  
ASKED WHEN MORE MINISTERS MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED, QURESHII  
OBSERVED "IT WOULD TAKE TIME" AS HE HAD TO "MAKE ALL  
CALCULATIONS BEFORE TAKING A STEP" AND "IT WAS A QUESTION  
OF SELECTING THE RIGHT PERSONS." QURESHI SAID THERE WERE  
NO HARD AND FAST RULES GOVERNING SIZE OF CABINET. IT  
DEPENDED ON VOLUME OF WORK AND COULD RANGE FROM EIGHT  
TO TWELVE MEMBERS.

3. RANA SHAUKAT MAHMUD, NEW REVENUE MINISTER, WAS  
FORMERLY MINISTER FOR HEALTH IN GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR'S  
CABINET (NOVEMBER 1973 - MARCH 1974). BORN IN AMRITSAR IN  
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1938, MAHMUD IS LAWYER FROM WELL-TO-DO AGRICULTURAL FAMILY

IN SHEIKHUPURA DISTRICT. HE JOINED PPP EARLY (IN 1967) AND WAS ELECTED TO PUNJAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER, 1970. IN 1972, HE WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY OF PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY. FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION OF KHAR CABINET IN MARCH 1974, HE RESUMED LAW PRACTICE IN LAHORE AND KEPT OUT OF POLITICS. HE AVOIDS CONTROVERSY, AND WHEN IN OFFICE, TENDS TO FOLLOW THE LEADER (FULL BIO FOLLOWS).

4. EDUCATION MINISTER MALIK GHULAM NABI IS OL POLITICAL WARHORSE. BORN IN AMRITSAR 1911 OF POOR KASHMIRI FAMILY, HE EARNED MA DEGREE AND JOINED ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE IN 1937. HE WAS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF PAKISTAN MOVEMENT AND ARRESTED FOR HIS PART IN 1946-47 MUSLIM LEAGUE AGITATIONS AGAINST PUNJAB TIWANA GOVERNMENT. IN 1950 IN PAKISTAN, HE JOINED NEWLY FORMED JINNAH AWAMI LEAGUE UNDER H.S. SUHARWARDY AND IN 1951 WAS ELECTED MEMBER OF PUNJAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ON AWAMI LEAGUE TICKET, PLAYING PROMINENT ROLE IN ASSEMBLY OPPOSITION. HE LOST TO INDEPENDENT IN 1965 PA ELECTIONS. HE JOINED PPP IN 1969 AND, FOLLOWING ARREST BY YAYHA GOVERNMENT FOR CRITICIZING MARTIAL LAW REGIME, WAS RELEASED AND ELECTED IN DECEMBER 1970 TO PUNJAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ON PPP TICKET. IN NOVEMBER 1973, HE SUCCEEDED FELLOW CABINET APPOINTEE RANA SHAUKAT MAHMUD AS SECRETARY OF PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. NABI IS KNOWN FOR OCCASIONAL FITS OF TEMPER AND GENERALLY LEFT-OF-CENTER VIEWS (FULL BIO FOLLOWS).

5. COMMENT: CHIEF MINISTER QURESHI CONTINUES TO MOVE SLOWLY, BUILDING CABINET AROUND PROVEN ADMINISTRATORS AND EXPERIENCED POLITICIANS. MAHMUD HAD CLEAN, SCANDAL-FREE RECORD AS HEALTH MINISTER IN KHAR MINISTRY, AND NABI BRINGS BROAD POLITICAL BACKGROUND TO NEW CABINET.

6. DESPITE EFFORTS, FORMER GOVERNOR (AND CHIEF MINISTER) KHAR HAS APPARENTLY BEEN UNABLE THUS FAR TO EXPLOIT FACTIONALISM IN PARTY AND INFLUENCE MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS. (MAHMUD, THOUGH ONE TIME KHAR PROTEGE, IS NOT CONSIDERED ONE OF HIS INTIMATES.) BHUTTO AND QURESHI THUS SEEM TO HAVE KHAR DANGLING, WITH HIS INFLUENCE ERODING AS HIS NOMINEES FOR CABINET ARE PASSED OVER.

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SPENGLER

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## Message Attributes

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